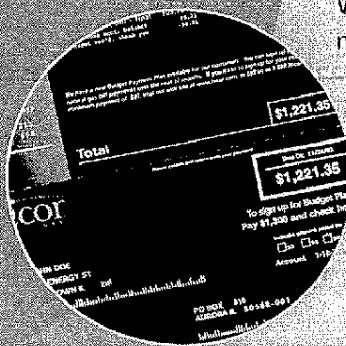


# ENERGY SOLUTIONS@ WORK

**nicor**  
GAS

March 2004



## What you should know about gas prices, usage and your **Nicor Gas bill**

While many factors influence the natural gas market, it is important to remember that your Nicor Gas bill is a reflection of your monthly gas usage. Knowing your facility's gas use history can give you an idea of how much gas you typically use and what the cost will be based on current prices. You can find this information at the "My Account" section of [nicorgas.com/commercial](http://nicorgas.com/commercial).

## What's in your gas bill?

There are three primary components that make up your monthly Nicor Gas bill.

### Natural Gas Cost

The cost of the natural gas you use makes up about 75 to 80 percent of your monthly bill. It is calculated by taking the number of therms (the measure of how much gas you used during the month) multiplied by the price per therm. As a regulated utility, Nicor Gas does not profit from gas costs; we pass the cost on to you without mark-up. If you participate in Customer Select, the name of your gas supplier appears in this section, along with their charges.

**5-10%**  
Taxes

**10-15%**  
Delivery Charges

**75-80%**  
Natural Gas Cost

### Delivery Charges

Delivery charges are Nicor Gas' cost to operate and distribute gas to you. These charges make up about 10 to 15 percent of your gas bill, and the amount we charge is based on rates that were approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission in 1996. Nicor Gas customers pay the lowest distribution charges of any Illinois utility.

### Taxes

State, utility fund, municipal and gas use taxes make up the remaining five to 10 percent of your natural gas bill. A description of these taxes can be found on the back of your gas bill.

## SAVE A STAMP... pay your bill online

Now all it takes is a click of the mouse to pay your gas bill! With Internet bill payment, you can make your gas bill payment online using a credit card or bank withdrawal (a transaction fee will apply). To get started, visit [nicorgas.com/commercial](http://nicorgas.com/commercial) and log on to the "My Account" section.

### BE SURE TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION READY:

- Your Nicor Gas account number;
- An e-mail address (for payment confirmation); and
- Your credit card or bank account information.

# ENERGY SOLUTIONS@ WORK



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Prepare now for winter gas costs
- Free workshop on gas costs
- New taxing law

August 2004

## Managing your winter energy dollars

Though the weather is still steamy, now is the time to start preparing for winter. Nicor Gas has bill payment options, energy tips and information that will help you manage your energy dollars.

### Factors that Impact Gas Prices

Natural gas is a commodity. Its price goes up and down according to supply and demand across the country. There are several factors that influence supply and demand, such as the economy and weather, and these factors ultimately determine the price of gas.

#### The national factors impacting supply are:

##### PRODUCTION

Natural gas production has increased slightly, but has not kept pace with rising demand, so the national market price of natural gas has remained high.



##### STORAGE

Summer injections have eased concerns over adequate storage inventory heading into winter. However, colder than normal U.S. weather could cause storage levels to be drawn down at an accelerated pace this winter, impacting prices.



#### The national factors impacting demand are:

##### WEATHER

Weather has the strongest impact on gas prices and is also the most difficult to predict. Not only do weather conditions in the Midwest impact natural gas prices, but so does weather throughout the country, particularly the eastern U.S. where there is potential for large natural gas consumption.



##### ECONOMY

A more robust economy demands more natural gas to fuel growth and increased production. Increased industrial demand for natural gas can cause a rise in prices.



## Want to learn more about gas prices?

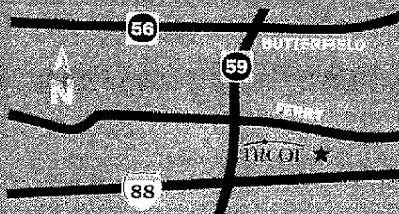
### Attend a free gas cost workshop

At this special workshop, you'll hear from national and local experts on where natural gas prices are headed and strategies for making the most effective use of your energy.

You will also have an opportunity for hands-on learning when you take our short, online energy assessment - Navigator - and get recommendations for improvements for your business. Be sure to bring your gas and electric bills with annual energy usage for each facility.

Together, we can make gas prices more manageable.

**Date:** September 27, 2004  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Nicor Inc. headquarters  
1844 Perry Rd., Naperville (near I-88 and Rt. 59)



**Cost:** Free to Nicor customers. \$500 value  
**R.S.V.P.:** By September 20 to 630-388-2596



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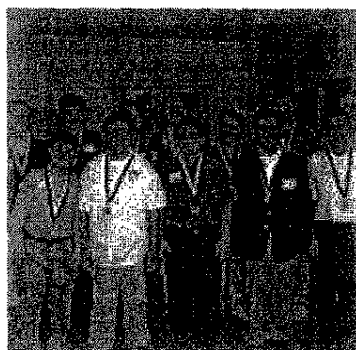
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## NATIONAL ENERGY FOUNDATION

is a nonprofit educational organization and a national leader in teacher training, student programs, instructional materials, development and distribution. Cooperative partnerships with sponsoring businesses, government agencies and the education community provide continued support for our programs and services.

For more information contact:

### NATIONAL ENERGY FOUNDATION

3676 California Ave. Suite A117  
Salt Lake City, UT 84104  
PHONE: (801) 908-5800  
FAX: (801) 908-5400  
email: [info@nef1.org](mailto:info@nef1.org)



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For more information,  
please contact us at:

National Energy Foundation  
3676 California Ave. Ste. A117  
Salt Lake City, UT 84104  
(801) 908-5800  
email: [info@nef1.org](mailto:info@nef1.org)



**National Energy  
Foundation**

NATIONAL ENERGY FOUNDATION  
Resources for Education

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

NEF has become a national leader in forming "partnerships" in behalf of teachers, students, and the education community with a wide variety of businesses, associations, educational institutions and government agencies.

Energy and natural resources directly impact our environment, our nation, and the world. It is important that the population, especially teachers and students, be educated about the social, economic, political, technological and scientific implications of energy, natural resources, and environmental choices.

## PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

More than 300 public and private electric and water utility companies and over 100 natural gas utility companies purchase NEF programs, materials, courses, and services.

NEF sponsors also include state energy offices, private business public and private schools, school districts, universities and individual teachers. For a list of references, please contact NEF.

NEF is preparing to celebrate 25 years of service to the education community and all those organizations, businesses, government agencies, associations, schools, teachers and students with whom we work.

For more than two decades NEF has developed a multitude of unique programs, materials, and services and is committed to continuing our steady development and improvement process.

The experiences gained have helped NEF evolve and improve. We have applied what we've learned and the mistakes we've made to the point where NEF has become a highly efficient, focused, productive organization. We recognize much of our work is a process of learning-by-doing. This approach has helped NEF continually improve and progress. We are dedicated to striving for perfection.

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and doing the very best in all we do.

If you are interested in further collaboration or sponsorship of N programs or materials, please don't hesitate in contacting a mem of the NEF team.

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